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May 29, 1992
Contact: Rosemary Harty

RETENTION: RESCUE OR STIGMA? When school lets out for summer vacation in the next few weeks, some students will learn they won't be promoted with their classmates. University of Dayton professors James E. Gay and Thomas Rueth studied interventions including retention, and believe holding a child back at the same grade level should be a last resort. Retention helps some children, but for others, it has long-lasting negative consequences including the stigma of failure. "It's intended to be a positive reinforcer, to put a child in a fair fight," said Thomas Rueth, assistant professor of counselor education and human services. "It's usually viewed by the child as a failure, and can become part of a child's identity for years."

Parents should discuss retention at length with a child's teacher, and carefully explore alternatives including summer school and tutoring, Rueth said.

Gay is a professor of teacher education.

Contact **Thomas Rueth** at (513) 229-3644 or **James E. Gay** at (513) 229-3303.

CHILD'S PLAY -- If you attend a son or daughter's Little League game, do them a favor and refrain from shouting, screaming and heckling the umpires. Many adult sufferers of "Little League syndrome" take the games children play too seriously, says John Schleppi, a professor in UD's Health and Physical Education and Sport Science department. Some parents may think kids play better with a crowd cheering them on from the sidelines. But "kids really don't need us," Schleppi said. Schleppi said parents who pay too much attention to the scoreboard may contribute to kids burning out on sports. Kids enjoy sports more when they're simply allowed to play the game, Schleppi said.

"Go and enjoy a game, as a family thing," Schleppi said. But be quiet.

Contact **John Schleppi** at (513) 229-4206.

LEARNING TO BE LEADERS -- Good summer jobs are hard to come by in a recession. But UD business students selected for a mentorship not only have jobs, they have access to the know-how of top executives in Dayton firms. This year, 13 business majors will work with mentors in participating companies. "Students can really learn what business is like," said John Rapp, director of the program and assistant dean of the School of Business Administration.

Jennifer Schoo, a senior in marketing, feels lucky to have snagged a job in strategic planning with Reynolds & Reynolds. "It's great experience," Schoo said. "With a mentorship, you have an advocate, someone in a managerial situation showing you the ropes."

Contact **John Rapp** at (513) 229-3731.



The University of Dayton

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.